

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Jeannette Specialty Glass, Inc./JSG Oceana

Catalyst Connection

Lean Manufacturing: Value Stream Mapping

Client Profile:

Jeannette Specialty Glass, founded in 1904, offers the highest grade of pressed glass products customized for commercial, industrial and mechanical needs. The company employs 68 people at its facility in Jeannette, Pennsylvania.

Situation:

Jeannette Specialty Glass's business was growing, and Kathleen Sarniak, President and COO, wanted to continue to improve upon their competitive advantage by reducing costs and eliminating waste. The company contacted Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

Catalyst Connection provided a sequence of onsite lean training and pilot implementation programs for the company's entire workforce. Using the Value Stream Mapping (VSM) process, Jeannette employees identified and documented the paths that materials, products, and information from order entry through delivery of finished glass products to the customer. Catalyst Connection helped the company develop a new team leader program to diagram and label the paths of materials and information. The team was able to identify inefficiencies and waste, and prioritize urgent problems. This exercise has become an ongoing process improvement which not only helped to reduce costs, but the team effort served to improve employee morale.

Results:

- * Increased production yields from 10 percent to 30 percent.
- * Reduced returns by 3 percent.
- * Reduced waste by 33 percent.

Testimonial:

"When you walk in the door of the factory, you can clearly see the whole flow of goods. Every tool is placed, labeled, and outlined. Every lane is numbered so you can see what comes next."

Kathleen Sarniak, President and COO